



# **Town of Hopkinton, NH**

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**SELECT BOARD  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, JULY 15, 2013  
5:30 PM  
Approved July 29, 2013**

Chairman Jim O'Brien called a regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 5:30 PM on Monday, July 15, 2013. George Langwasser led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Select Board Present:** Jim O'Brien, George Langwasser, Sue B. Strickford, Sara Persechino and Ken Traum

**Staff Present:** Robin Buchanan, Administrative Assessing Assistant

**Public Present:** George Saunderson, Deb Curtis, Janet Krzyzaniak and Ken Wilkens

## **II. ADMINISTRATIVE**

### **Consent Agenda**

Board members reviewed documents for signature and approved unanimously the Consent Agenda taking the following action in motion made by Mr. Langwasser and seconded by Mrs. Persechino.

Accounts Payable Manifest	\$276,128.50
Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 33,608.99
Payroll Manifest	\$ 70,321.59
Building Permit	Map 249 Lot 9
Building Permit	Map 218 Lot 9
Building Permit	Map 224 Lot 38
Building Permit	Map 221 Lot 119
Building Permit	Map 222 Lot 69
Building Permit	Map 211 Lot 21
PA-28	
Intent to Cut	Map 224 Lot 45
PAF-Recreation	Hiring additional staff

## **III. Approval of Minutes**

The Board reviewed the minutes of the Public Meeting of July 1, 2013. Mr. Traum made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Strickford to approve the minutes of the Public Meeting. A couple of corrections were made.

**VOTE:** O'Brien, Langwasser, Strickford, Persechino and Traum voting in favor of the motion; no votes against. **MOTION APPROVED 5-0.**

Mr. Traum inquired as to the Health Trust Holiday which he thought would be on the agenda tonight. Robin stated that since Mr. Cass was on vacation this week, it was postponed.

#### **IV. Public Appointments**

George Saunderson and Deb Curtis from the Hopkinton State Fair Association came in to discuss the expired PILOT and how to come up with a fair formula for future taxes. Mrs. Curtis stated the Fair Association currently pays a PILOT of \$31,000 a year, as well as expenses for Fire and Police during the fair and although it is private land; many in town believe the town owns the property, the town does not. The Association does not prohibit residents from accessing the property. Mr. Traum inquired if there were any further plans for more buildings. Mr. Saunderson replied no new building; however, the Association is planning on upgrading the grandstand. He also stated it would be at great expense to the Association. He also stated the Fair Association is 501 3C, so there is a limit as to how much the fair can pay.

A discussion ensued as to how the amount of \$31,000 came about. Mr. Langwasser stated the Fair has a total assessment of \$1,555,300. The taxes on that at the current tax rate would be approximately \$46,000. Mr. Langwasser asked Mr. Saunderson to give the Board a list of buildings and their uses. Mr. Saunderson stated all the buildings are used by the fair during the fair.

Mr. Traum inquired if the Fair Association paid federal taxes. Mr. Saunderson stated no, the Fair is exempt from federal taxes.

Mrs. Persechino inquired as to what benefits besides the fair are provided to the town. Mr. Saunderson stated it is a historical part of town; the land is used for other purposes, which were mentioned before, for the high school graduation, and as lacrosse fields, and there are no children in the school system. Mrs. Curtis added there is limited added revenue for the town from those attending the fair and the fair has a 100 years history in the town, as it originally started at George's Park.

Mrs. Strickford inquired as to unforeseen expenses. Mr. Saunderson stated we make improvements every year. It required also one half million dollars to have the wiring redone. Mr. Curtis stated that fair is expected to meet all current codes and the wiring needed updated in order to provide the wattage that is required to run everything.

Mr. O'Brien inquired about providing the Board with the financials of the fair. Mr. Saunderson stated that it can be provided. He also stated the fair is a cultural education and any shows the fair has help pay for the agricultural things that go on at the fair. He further stated the Fair Association is not a rich entity. Mrs. Curtis stated the money goes back into the fair. Mr. Saunderson stated the fair is not asking to pay less but to pay the same.

Mr. Langwasser stated he does not know what to say to the taxpayer whose taxes have gone up very year. Why shouldn't the fair pay more just as the taxpayer has to.

Mr. Traum inquired how the \$31,000 PILOT was agreed upon. Mr. Langwasser stated he was on the Board at the time and there was no formula.

Mr. O'Brien stated the Board will do some research and get back to them with an offer sometime in September or October; and then we can schedule another meeting. Mr. O'Brien thanked Mr. Saunderson and Mrs. Curtis for coming in.

## **V. PUBLIC FORUM**

Bob LaPree stated the boat launch at JoSlyvia Lake is giving way to erosion and it is difficult to get in there. It is causing silt to go into the lake and it is an environmental issue. Mr. LaPree stated the State built the launch and then turned it over to the town. Mr. O'Brien stated that the Board will have Public Works look into the issue. Mr. LaPree stated that he is also asking for recommendations for upkeep and how to minimize the erosion. Mr. Traum stated that he owns a cottage on JoSlyvia Lake and his wife is Lake Association Board. Mr. Traum asked how we became the owners of the boat launch. The Board would like Mr. Cass to look into that. Mrs. Strickford asked if there were any other boat launches in town. The response was there are none.

Janet Krzyzaniak stated that although she is not a member of the Senior Recreation Counsel, however, she attends the meetings and they asked to bring up an issue at the next BOS meeting. The Counsel would like the Board to consider putting a granite bench by Houston Drive. She further stated that there are two benches in the triangle in town and perhaps one could go by Houston Drive and the other could be placed by the trail at Houston Field. Mr. Traum suggested that someone should talk to the Fire Chief about the benches and if they can be moved. Also, it was suggested that the Senior Recreation Counsel ask Jessica Bailey, Recreation Director, for input as to where to put the benches.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

The Board reviewed the paving bids, as well as the recommendation from John Thayer, Public Works Superintendent. The lowest bid was Pike for \$210,873.00. Mr. Traum asked if the town has used them before. Mr. O'Brien stated yes we have. Discussion ensued, with regards to a paving plan. Mr. O'Brien stated we have a Road Committee which works on which roads need attention.

Mr. Langwasser made a motion to approve the bid from Pike Industries in the amount of \$210,873.00 for asphalt. Mrs. Persechino seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** O'Brien, Langwasser, Strickford, Persechino and Traum voting in favor of the motion; no votes against. **MOTION APPROVED 5-0.**

The Board looked at the financials through June, 2013. Everything looks good. Mr. Traum suggested joint purchasing with other towns to help lower bids.

## **VII. OTHER**

Mr. O'Brien brought up the matter of the security at the High School. He is concerned the entrances to the building and the lack of security. Mr. Langwasser suggested that Mr. Cass could bring up the subject at his next meeting with Steve Chamberlin. Mr. Traum stated he would also speak with Steve Chamberlin about the security at the school.

Mr. Langwasser brought the Board's attention to an invitation the Board received to attend an Eagle Court of Honor for Christopher Keith Inzinga. He suggested the Board send a letter of congratulations on his achievement.

Robin informed the Board that she received a call from Mary Congoran, who stated the Contoocook Carry is back on.

There being no further business, a motion by Mr. Traum, and seconded by Mr. Langwasser to adjourn the meeting.

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**VOTE:** O'Brien, Langwasser, Strickford, Persechino and Traum voting in favor of the motion; no votes against. MOTION APPROVED 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Buchanan

Administrative Assessing Assistant

*These minutes are not official until approved by the Board of Selectmen at their meeting.*